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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF [redacted]

1. CHILE: ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE PAST WEEK SUGGESTS THE MILITARY REGIME WILL DO LITTLE TO RELAX ITS STANCE ON SECURITY OR ITS BAN ON POLITICS, AT LEAST IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

WHEN A DOZEN FORMER OFFICIALS OF THE ALLENDE ADMINISTRATION WERE RELEASED ON SEPTEMBER 12, THE GOVERNMENT SAID THAT SOME CHARGES WERE STILL PENDING AGAINST THEM. NOW THE NAVY HAS BEGUN PROCEEDINGS AGAINST SIX OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON CHARGES OF SUBVERSION, AND AGAINST LUIS CORVALAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

IN A SEPARATE ACTION, THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCED THAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY--CHILE'S LARGEST--WILL NOT BE PERMITTED A VOICE IN RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AFTER THE PUBLIC AIRING OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN TWO PARTY LEADERS THAT IN EFFECT REAFFIRMED THE PARTY'S DESIRE TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR A RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC RULE.

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THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION WAS A CATEGORICAL REJECTION OF A DIALOGUE WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ON THIS BASIS. THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT FURTHERMORE RAISED THE THREAT OF PUNISHMENT FOR ACTIVITY DEEMED CONTRARY TO THE TERMS OF THE CONTINUING POLITICAL "RECESS."

ONE EFFECT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S STAND WILL BE TO COMPLICATE PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S PROPOSAL TO FORM A "COUNCIL OF STATE," COMPOSED OF FORMER PRESIDENTS AND PROMINENT CHILEANS, TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT. FORMER PRESIDENT FREI, THE MOST PROMINENT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT, WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PARTICIPATE AFTER HIS PARTY HAS BEEN BUFFETED SO STRONGLY.

INTERNALLY, THESE DEVELOPMENTS CHANGE LITTLE. INTERNATIONALLY, THEY WILL FUEL FOREIGN CRITICISM AT A TIME WHEN CHILE IS TRYING TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE. BELGIUM, WEST GERMANY, AND THE UK HAVE PLANS TO SPONSOR A UN RESOLUTION CONDEMNING CHILE'S STAND

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ON HUMAN RIGHTS. AND A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES WILL SUPPORT THEM. [redacted]

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